

classes annually. Additionally, Martha is known for her celebrity auctioneering in the community, where she has been able to raise over \$2 million to support local charities.

Martha has not only dedicated her life to cooking, but also has generously assisted many local organizations such as SOS Read, the Children's Fund, the Redlands Bowl Association, the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and Sacred Heart Church. Her genuine spirit and high energy has contributed immensely to these organizations.

On top of her cooking classes, restaurants, and philanthropic events, Martha is a realtor, and also hosts a radio cooking show, which airs on weekdays at 8:33 a.m. and 4:32 p.m. on KVCR 91.9 FM. Additionally, Martha is the author of Martha Green's Cooking Things, a cookbook that offers over 300 recipes.

Martha's generosity and culinary passion has impacted Inland Empire immeasurably. Her bright personality and dedication to charitable events has made a lasting impact in our community. I extend my congratulations to Martha Green as she is honored with the Tzedakah award by the Congregation Emanu El on June 9th 2012.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to our Veterans of the Vietnam War and to reflect upon their courage, strength, and love for the United States of America.

March 29, 2012, has been proclaimed Vietnam Veteran's Day in the State of New York, but it is important that we recognize our Veterans of the Vietnam War throughout this great Nation.

During the Vietnam War, of the more than 3.4 million Americans that were deployed, over 58,000 were killed, 153,000 were wounded, and over 2,000 remain missing in action.

In April of 1975, the Vietnam War came to a close with the fall of Saigon, but the war will go on forever in the hearts and minds of our Veterans and their families. It is important that we remind our Veterans that they are greatly appreciated for their service to this great Nation and that they will never be forgotten. It is because of our service men and women that the United States of America remains the Greatest Nation in the History of Mankind.

The men and woman who served our country in the Vietnam War are shining examples of patriotism, strength, courage, and decency. It is with great honor that I pause and reflect upon their sacrifice and thank our Vietnam Veterans for their dedicated service to the United States of America.

HONORING KAREN L. MACON

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, thirty-eight years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Educational System; and

Whereas, Mrs. Karen L. Macon began her educational career in teaching in South Bend, Indiana at Muesel Elementary School in 1974 and this year she retires from teaching at Edward L. Bouie, Sr., Elementary Theme School in Lithonia, Georgia, she has served the DeKalb County Public Schools System well and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Teacher, Educator and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader, a devoted scholar and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of our youth; and

Whereas, Mrs. Macon is formally retiring from her educational career today, she will continue to promote education because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Karen L. Macon on her retirement from the DeKalb County Public Schools System and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 18, 2012 as Mrs. Karen L. Macon Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RUTHERFORD "BUD" GASTON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Rutherford "Bud" Gaston, who passed away on May 16, 2012 at the age of 91. Bud will be remembered for his groundbreaking work in education, his loyalty to his friends, family, and students, as well as his role as one of Central California's most visionary leaders.

Bud was born in Georgia and spent his childhood in Pennsylvania, where he attended elementary school and high school. His commitment to service was evident early in his life. Bud served our Nation proudly in the United States Army during World War II and ended his service as a second lieutenant.

Bud and his wife made their way to Fresno in the late 1940s. In 1953, he graduated from California State University, Fresno and began his educational career. His remarkable 33-year educational career was marked with milestones. As Fresno Unified School District's first African-American principal, Bud became an inspiration and source of pride for an entire community.

Bud consistently maintained a positive attitude and worked tirelessly to ensure the success of his students. As a teacher, his gentle spirit and big heart put his students at ease and encouraged them to pursue success. In 1963, Bud was named principal of Teilman and Emerson schools. He retired in 1986 after serving as principal at Bethune Elementary School for 14 years. Throughout his impres-

sive career, he served as a mentor to countless students.

Bud's service to our community did not end in the classroom; he also served on a number of boards and commissions. He served as President of United Black Men of Fresno for ten years and was active on the boards of the Chaffee Zoo, Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno, St. Agnes Medical Center, and the Kiwanis Club of Fresno. His hard work and innovative nature made him a respected member of our community and he served as an example to many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Rutherford "Bud" Gaston, one of Fresno's most distinguished leaders, a trailblazer for education, and a true champion for the people of Central California. His leadership made him a role model and an asset to our community. His caring nature and vibrant spirit will be sorely missed, but his legacy will live on in the lives of those he touched.

HONORING STEVE SIMON THORNTON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM WILSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend and constituent, Steve Simon Thornton, who has devoted the last 31 years to serving the children of eastern North Carolina. In a few days, Steve will be retiring as Assistant Superintendent of the Wilson County Public Schools.

Steve Thornton is a native of Halifax County, North Carolina. He was born on November 1, 1959 to Stonewall and Garteon Davis Thornton who were role models and inspired Steve to give of his time and talent to disadvantaged children. His parents believed in the power and opportunity offered by an educated mind and from a very early age ingrained in Steve and his three older siblings the importance of education.

Steve was a product of the Halifax County Public School System, having attended T. S. Inborden Elementary School and graduating in 1978 from Enfield High School. Throughout his formative years, Steve learned that education was key to breaking the cycle of poverty that can so often plague traditionally southern communities. He was determined to give back to the community that gave him so much. And so he attended East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina and in 1982 received a Bachelor's Degree in Intermediate Education.

After receiving his undergraduate degree, Steve chose to become an elementary teacher at Benvenue Elementary School in Nash County, North Carolina. He was so highly respected by his colleagues that he was named grade chairman and was also honored as the 1986 Teacher of the Year. The following year, Steve saw a new opportunity to help shape young minds and began serving as Assistant Principal at Carver Elementary School in Edgecombe County, North Carolina.

In 1989, after earning a Master's Degree in School Administration, Steve returned to his